

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA") in view of Sasaki (PCT application 2002-0045046, hereinafter "Sasaki").

As shown in Fig. 2, the gasket 1 is brought into contact with the top cover 4 and contact surface 5a of the hard disk box body 5 from the main bead portion 2 to seal between the top cover 4 and the hard disk box body 5. When this sealing between the top cover 4 and the hard disk box body 5 is carried out, the main bead portion 2 is primarily compressed to be in a deformed state as shown in Fig. 2.

According to this configuration, squeeze-out is not produced even if a pressure is applied to the gasket 1 from the hard disk body 5 (the other member) at the time of attachment, thereby preventing squeeze-out from raising a problem by being brought into contact with other components. Also, since the gasket 1 is ensured to have a sufficient height, the gasket 1 is compressed to the hard disk box body 5 (other member) with certainty, thereby ensuring a sealing effect and preventing penetration of gas, dust, and the like.

It is possible to prevent a situation in which, because of the hardness of the gasket 1 being too soft, a suitable shape cannot be maintained and buckling is produced at the time of compression depending on the cross-sectional shape of the

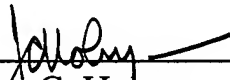
gasket 1, invoking poor sealing property and squeeze-out. Also there is no need to use a large amount of plasticizer in order to reduce the hardness, so that the generation of outgas is minimized. Therefore, the error operation of the hard disk due to the components of the outgas adhering to the disk is minimized. Further, it is possible to prevent moldability from becoming poor. In addition, it is possible to prevent a decrease of a counterforce due to non-occurrence of collapse caused by the gasket 1 having too large a hardness.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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